



TO  
THE  
HONORABLE  
THE  
COMMONS  
IN  
PARLIAMENT  
ASSEMBLED

## The grievances of the Owners and Masters of shipping trading to the Southwards, against the patent for *Dungenesse* lights.

*What was con-  
sented unto.*

**I**T is true that some of vs gaue consent to the setting vp of a light at *Dungenesse*: which was intended should haue bin a faire stone-tower, where-  
in to haue kept a blazing fire light: and for the charge of building and  
maintenance thereof, consent was likewise giuen to pay a pennie vpon the  
tunne of all ships that should take benefit thereby; and this penie to be paid,  
part by the Owner and part by the Merchant, at the returne of the shippes  
from their voyages, and not before.

*The Patentee a-  
buse of the consent:  
in erecting an vnfit  
light, and ill keep-  
ing thereof.*

But the Patentee hath abused this consent: for in stead of a stone tower,  
he hath erected sleight structures of 3 or 4 masts: and on the top thereof  
keepees onely a candle light, which is nothing fit for that place, for that we  
cannot haue any benefit thereby, because it cannot be seene, till ships come  
very neare it: and also that candle light is so euilly kept, that it is suffered  
in many darke nights to go out, to the often endangering of our ships and  
mens liues.

*The Patentee re-  
ceiueth as much a-  
gain, as was con-  
sented unto, and re-  
ceiueth it of those  
that haue no benefit  
by the light.*

And in stead of a pennie vpon the tunne to be paid at our ships returne  
the Patentee hath inserted a pennie out, and a pennie in, which is two pence  
vpon the tunne, euery voyage. VVhich two pence we refusing at first to pay,  
he procured his Maiesties letter to the Custome-house, to haue our entries  
refused, and our Coquets stayed vntill payment were made of the said two  
pence vpon the tunne. And also he receiaeth the like imposition of all ships  
that bring salt, wines, or oyles out of the Low Countries, although they  
come not neere the said lights by 18 or 20 miles, nor can haue any benefit  
thereby.

*What we now  
desire.*

VVee doe therefore humbly pray this honorable Assembly to provide  
that a faire tower may be built, wherein may be kept a blazing fire-light, at  
the charge of a pennie vpon the tunne, to be payd part by the Owner, and  
part by the Merchant, at the returne of our shippes: or otherwise altogether  
to extinguish the light: for much better were it to haue none, then such a  
one, by which we can haue no benefit, but are often endangered to lose  
both our ships, goods and liues.